

EVACUEE**NEWSLETTER**

Number 3

Naval Air Station Meridian

September 3, 2005

Navy supporting FEMA-led relief efforts

As directed by the Secretary of Defense, U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) is supporting the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) disaster relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

A variety of requests for assistance have been made to DoD because of the unique capabilities it brings to emergency and rescue operations; the effort to fill these requests is underway in each of the affected states.

USNORTHCOM established Joint Task Force (JTF) Katrina to be the military's on-scene commander in support of FEMA.

JTF Katrina is currently assessing locations for the establishment of its command headquarters.

Lt. Gen. Russel Honoré, commander of the First Army in Fort Gillem, Ga., is the JTF Commander.

RADM Joseph F. Kilkenny, commander, Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group, is Joint Force Maritime Component Commander to Gen. Honoré.

RADM Reubin B. Bookert, commander, Amphibious Group Two, will command the at-sea Naval Task Force from aboard USS Bataan (LHD 5).

The Navy's involvement in the humanitarian assistance operations is an important part of a larger, collaborative effort to meet local and state requirements forwarded to NORTHCOM from state governors and FEMA federal coordinators.

Thanks to the Navy's Fleet Response

Plan, 28 ships were ready to get underway within 24 hours and others are enroute.

They are providing disaster response equipment, search and rescue, medevac, hospital and other medical services, underwater survey and salvage, FEMA support, onboard dialysis, diesel fuel, and much more.

"...there is a national emergency effort response ongoing. It involves clearly many, many government agencies, all the services.... In the Navy over the last 24 hours we have deployed a number of units, a number of capabilities, and this is a team effort...to be able to both assess and respond. Please keep those people in your thoughts and prayers...all of us will be working very diligently to help there as much as possible..."

-ADM Mike Mullen, Chief of Naval Operations

Notes of interest for Hurricane evacuees**Sunday Church Services at NAS Community Chapel**

Protestant Sunday School: 9 a.m.

Protestant Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

Catholic Mass: 5 p.m.

NAS Community Chapel Weekday Activities

Wednesday Prayer Luncheon: 11:15 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

LDS Family Evening: 6 p.m.

Various Hours of Operation for on-base facilities

NEX: M-F, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sun, 12:30-5 p.m.

Gas Station: 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily -- no after hours sales

Country Store: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. daily

Commissary: Sept. 4, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.; Tues-Sat, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

NFCU: Sept. 3-5, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; M-F, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

Citizen's Natl Bank: M-Th, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Fri, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society

The office is up and running in Bldg. 266, next door to the Fleet and Family Support Center.

Hours of operation are Sun-Mon, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.; Tue-Fri, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Services can be provided for active duty and retired Navy personnel and their families, and for all service personnel and their families. Services for reservists with less than 30 days active duty are authorized until Thursday.

If you would like to make a donation to NMCRS to support the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts, go to www.nmcrs.org and click on the Hurricane Katrina link. One hundred percent of your donation will go to support military families.

Pharmacies

Winn Dixie: Closest to the base, 12 miles south of base along Hwy 39 on SE corner of Hwy 39 and North Hills Street (first light when traveling south on Hwy 39) -- on left when heading south. Open M-F, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sat, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Phone: 601-485-0818

Mr. Discount Pharmacy: Next the hospitals in downtown Meridian. Go south on Hwy 39 and as road forks, stay to the right and veer right as road forks again onto 14th St. Pharmacy is on left, across from Jeff Anderson Medical Center. Open every day from 8 a.m. until midnight. Phone: 601-698-1978

Hospitals

All three hospitals are with one to two block of each other in downtown Meridian -- travel south on Hwy 39 and as the highway moves back into the city, it will fork at one point and you will veer to the right fork. In approximately six blocks it will fork again, and you will veer off to the right and take a right onto 14th St. Anderson is on the right and Rush on the left. Riley is behind Rush on Constitution Ave. and 12th St. Phone: Anderson, 601-553-6111; Riley, 601-484-3357; Rush, 601-703-9260

TRICARE Authorization Number

1-800-444-5445. If you have an emergency and need to be seen at an ER, you will need to contact your PCM after you return home to have a consult placed for authorization of that visit. Only your PCM can place those consults for you.

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Branch Medical Clinic Meridian

The clinic is closed on weekends and holidays. We do have a duty crew who can take your calls for emergencies at 601-679-33.

School uniform donations requested

Registration for children evacuated from the coast is planned for sometime next week. With school children in the local area now wearing uniforms to school, a need exists for uniform clothing for the children. Items requested are: khaki or navy blue pants; red, white and blue polo shirts. School uniform donations can be taken to the Fleet and Family Support Center.

Evacuees with friends in Navy Family Housing

All evacuees who are staying in Navy Family Housing with friends or family who have not registered with the co-located Housing and Evacuation Offices should go to the Housing Office and do so.

What about school for the children?

School registration for evacuated children is tentatively scheduled for Friday, Sept. 9. See newsletter next week for more information.

Can I get a job while I'm here?

Temporary employment opportunities may be available if you are interested in working while you are here. Please check with the Fleet and Family Service Center for job information.

Wal-Mart employees

If you worked at a Wal-Mart store in an area affected by Hurricane Katrina, please check in with the Super Wal-Mart.

Can I volunteer to help while I'm here

The American Red Cross needs helpers for various tasks in several locations. Please call 601-485-5151.

Donations needed by Red Cross and Others

Donations of food, drinks, diapers, formula, and personal hygiene items should go to Frank Cochran Center.

Pet owners

A veterinarian diagnosed a golden retriever with a parasitic and bacterial infection and dehydration. There is no evidence of parvo. The veterinarian stressed that the viruses are normally spread by unclean conditions such as feces and heat. It is very important to keep the kennel area clean. Failure to do so will possibly result in the removal of your pets. Your cooperation is very much appreciated, but your pets will appreciate it more.

How do I register for WIC?

You can contact the WIC office at 601-693-2451. It is located at 5224 Valley Street behind the Mississippi Highway Patrol Office on Highway 19N in the College Park area.

You also can contact the Greater Meridian Health Clinic at 601-693-0118. It is located at 2701 Davis St., which is near St. Patrick's Church.

The Daily Coastie Notes

Coastie News is provided by the Coasties for the Coasties.

Donations: Food, clothing, toys, and diapers for infants and toddlers are coming into the Family Support Center. Items are available from 0800-1530 at the Family Support Center. FSC is open this weekend. Phone number is 601-679-2358/2360.

Credit Union: The Navy Federal Credit Union will be open through Labor Day, 0900-1400.

Loans: All personnel needing Mutual Assistant loans contact MKCS Myers.

Legal: Legal Assistance is available for setting up wills and powers of attorney in the CBQ.

Church: Anyone that has a church or

organization donating clothing contact Gail Myers at 601-679-4090.

Pet Watches: We will be instituting "Pet Watches" at Pet Housing. Servicemembers with pets there will be required to stand Pet Watches.

Belle Chase Academy: The Business Manager of Belle Chase Academy needs to contact MKCS Myers at 601-679-2530.

Federal Disaster Aid available for those suffering losses in designated areas

Designated Areas

Alabama: Baldwin, Mobile and Washington Counties

Louisiana: Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Palquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana

Parishes

Mississippi: Amite, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Marion, Pea River,

How to Apply

Perry, Pike, Stone, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties

Call FEMA to apply for assistance at 800-621-3362 or 800-462-7585 for the hearing impaired.

These numbers are for people in the designated federal disaster areas only.

Be prepared to give your Social

Security number, describe your losses, provide financial information, and give directions to the damaged property.

If you get a busy signal, try to call after 6 p.m. or on the weekend.

The information provided gets you in the system. An inspector will schedule an appointment and visit the property. You should be there. A housing assistance check will arrive in 7-10 days, if you are eligible. There may be an SBA application enclosed. You MUST fill out and return to be eligible for any further assistance.

lavy 24-hour help line for family info & muster 1-877-414-5358

Family info or for help, call Red Cross 1-866-GET-INFO

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Coast Guard Housing Support contact

Gloria Coke at 601-679-5551 or 601-483-3966. Also contact Cindy Vasquez at 601-679-9725.

Coast Guard Bookout Sept. 5 at Lake Martha. As you enter the base proceed through the flashing light until the paving turns to gravel then continue on for another 5 miles.

Great Union: The Navy Federal Credit Union will be open through Labor Day, 0900-1400 for all pay, travel and evacuation questions call the "People Cell" at 314-639-7900 ext. 2357-2358-2340.

Legal: Legal Assistance is available for setting up wills and powers of attorney in the CBO.

Pet Watches: We will be instituting Pet Watches at Pet Housing. Servicemembers with pets there will be required to stand Pet Watches.

Belle Chase Academy: The Business Manager of Belle Chase Academy needs to contact MKOS Myers at 601-693-2530.

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Louisiana: Acadia, Ascension, Assumption, Calcasieu, Cameron, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Jefferson Davis, Lafayette, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Palquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Martin, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Vermilion, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana Parishes

Mississippi: Amite, Forrest, George, Greene, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Lamar, Marion, Pearl River, Perry, Pike, Stone, Walthall and Wilkinson Counties.

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Security number, describe your losses, provide financial information, and give directions to the damaged property.

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Navy 24-hr help line for family info & muster 1-877-414-5358

Family info or for help, call Red Cross 1-866-GET-INFO

**THE FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER (FFSC)
IN BUILDING 405 IS WORKING EXTRA HOURS
TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR MILITARY MEMBERS
& THEIR FAMILIES AS WELL AS HURRICANE
EVACUEES CURRENTLY LODGING AT NAS
MERIDIAN.**

**THE FFSC WILL REMAIN OPEN DAILY, 0800—1530,
THROUGHOUT LABOR DAY WEEKEND AND ON FUTURE
WEEKENDS AS NEEDED.**

**ON TUESDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER, THE FFSC WILL RESUME ITS
REGULAR WEEKLY (M-F) BUSINESS HOURS, 0700—1630.**

THE FFSC PROVIDES THE FOLLOWING SERVICES FOR MILITARY
MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES (AND TO CIVILIAN HURRICANE
EVACUEES ON A SPACE-AVAILABLE BASIS):

- ✧ CLINICAL COUNSELING
- ✧ INFORMATION & REFERRAL
- ✧ RELOCATION ASSISTANCE
- ✧ EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE **(INCLUDING INFORMATION
ABOUT ALL TEMPORARY, POST-HURRICANE, CIVILIAN
HIRING AT NAS MERIDIAN)**
- ✧ VOLUNTEER ASSISTANCE & COORDINATION
- ✧ PERSONAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT COUNSELING –
***HOWEVER, WE DO NOT PROVIDE FINANCIAL
ASSISTANCE** – CONTACT NAVY MARINE CORPS RELIEF
SOCIETY AT 601-679-2504 FOR INFORMATION ON LOANS FOR
MILITARY MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES. THE FFSC CAN REFER
CIVILIAN HURRICANE EVACUEES TO THE APPROPRIATE
FINANCIAL RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS.
- ✧ INFORMATION ABOUT DONATING ITEMS (FOOD, CLOTHING, ETC
– ANY NON-FINANCIAL DONATIONS) FOR HURRICANE KATRINA
RELIEF

**THE FLEET & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER IS
LOCATED IN BUILDING 405 & CAN BE
REACHED AT 601-679-2360.**

TEMPORARY POST-HURRICANE JOBS AVAILABLE AT NAS MERIDIAN

The following jobs are currently available at NAS Meridian. These are temporary part- & full-time jobs with various agencies (most are NOT Federal "GS" jobs):

**20-30 FLAGGERS needed (day & night shifts)
by "Blue Team" assisting FEMA with traffic
direction.**

**10-20 F.O.D. ("Foreign Object Debris")
WALKERS needed by USDA Forest Service to
walk the runway area several times per day,
removing any foreign object debris that
would be hazardous to planes arriving or
leaving NAS Meridian.**

Galley assistance:

3 exp. COOKS ? 7 food assistants (can be trained)

To apply for the above jobs, you must have a Social Security Card and driver's license (or other photo ID) and be able to work and/or walk outdoors in current hot weather.

**** Call or visit Stacey Jemison at the Fleet & Family Support Center (FFSC), Building 405 - (601) 679-2360 - to apply for jobs. ****

You may put in a general application to be considered for any jobs that come available - many temporary personnel will be needed at NAS Meridian for a wide variety of positions created in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

**** Those wishing to VOLUNTEER may also sign up at the FFSC. ****